



Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

D R A F T

REPORT TO THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

December 2007 • Pursuant to RCW 77.04.150

Fish and Wildlife Commission

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WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE – DECEMBER 2007

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REFERENCE *(not included in final report)*

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Executive Summary

The 2001 Legislature, through the passage of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1655, directed the Fish and Wildlife Commission to appoint seven volunteers with disabilities to serve on an advisory committee as a pilot program expiring on July 1, 2005. In 2005, the Legislature extended this program for an additional three years, through July 1, 2008.

Following recruitment efforts by the Department and Commission office staff, the Commission's wildlife committee conducted interviews and selected members from a small pool of candidates. Initial appointments to the Committee were completed in November 2002. Since 2005, four new members have been appointed to fill vacancies.

The Commission's Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities generally represents the interests of disabled hunters, fishers, and wildlife viewers on matters such as special hunts, modified sporting equipment, access to public land, and hunting and fishing opportunities for persons with disabilities. Pursuant to RCW 77.04.150, the Commission is directed to present a report to the appropriate legislative committees detailing the effectiveness of the Committee, including information on participation levels, general interest, quality of advice, and recommendations for the Advisory Committee's continuance or modification.

The Advisory Committee works closely with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Committee, which is chaired by Brenda Kane, ADA Program Manager. The Advisory Committee consists of one representative from each Department program and region, and includes members from the Recreation and Conservation Office, and the Department of Natural Resources. The Chair of the Advisory Committee also participates in meetings and activities of the Department's ADA Committee, and the ADA Committee coordinator serves as staff person for the Advisory Committee.

Unlike the ADA Committee, the Advisory Committee is comprised of constituents with disabilities from each region of the state, plus one at-large member, and none are Department employees. Working closely with the Department's ADA Committee, the Advisory Committee has presented items of interest to the Fish and Wildlife Commission that have led to rule-making decisions of benefit to the community of hunters, fishers, and wildlife-viewers with disabilities.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission recommends that the Advisory Committee for Person with Disabilities be (extended..., modified..., concluded...)

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Current Members

Region 1 – Richard Villalobos, Spokane

Region 2 – Malcolm Epstein, Ephrata

Region 3 – William Hoage, Kennewick

Region 4 – Albert W. “Bill” Vincent, Camano Island, **Committee Chair**

Region 5 – Gregory C. Hicks, Centralia

Region 6 – Burt Dezihan, Puyallup

At-Large – Edward J. Langlois, Kirkland

Department Staff Support: Brenda Kane, ADA Program Manager

Commission Staff Support: Susan Yeager, Executive Assistant

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Recommendations to the Commission

Working with the Department’s ADA Committee members and staff, the Commission’s Advisory Committee proposed amendments to **WAC 232-12-828, Hunting of Game Birds and Animals by persons with disability, RCW 77.32.480**, and supported Fish and Wildlife Commission rule action amending the following:

- WAC 232-12-828 (5) & (6) to allow shooting “along the side of the maintained portion of a public road”
- RCW 77.32.480 Reduce rate licenses (fishing and hunting)
- Changed WAC 323-12-828 rules to allow “scopes” for Muzzleloaders and Crossbows hunters.
- Changed rules allowing electric motors for persons with disabilities on restricted lakes.

Additional Recommendations:

- Supported the adoption of additional elk permits for persons with disabilities in the Mount St. Helens and Mud Flow areas (an additional 25 permits).
- Developed with the Department’s Wildlife Program, criteria to establishing what are acceptable road access areas for harvesting big game animals. Road access area must have these criteria: must have a road, must be able to see areas away from the road (open), and the game biologist must be able to identify game to be hunted in that area.

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Participation Levels

From January 2005 through 2007, members of the Advisory Committee have donated a total of 6745 volunteer hours, and an average of \$6530 per year has been paid in travel reimbursement costs to members from the Commission's operating budget.

Meetings

This committee has met nine times since January 2005 and elected Albert W. (Bill) Vincent from Region 4, as chairperson. The following topics were discussed: Possible future issues of importance to hunters and fishers, wildlife viewing, and need for a mission statement, goals and objectives. This Committee wants to have measurable goals and objectives so at the time of evaluation the Commission can track the usefulness of this committee and report back to the Legislature regarding its performance and support.

Refer to meeting minutes for January 2005 to November 2007 meetings.

Some of the issues to be considered at the next meeting, in January 2008:

1. Electric motor use on all rivers with motor restrictions.
2. Review Special Use Permit use and make recommendation to streamline the process.
3. Review permit allocations.
4. Work with DNR for more opportunities behind locked gates.
5. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Committee to establish type of codes use by licensing to define types of needs of the disabled person.

Hunting Licenses Breakdown: 2001, 2004, 2005, & 2006 Data

With the present system in place, data collected from 2001 (first data point). From 2004 through 2006, data changes can be observed.

1. Persons with Disabilities purchased 2924 big game licenses and 800 small game licenses in 2001.
2004 Big game 2792, Small game 1314
2005 Big game 2938, Small game 1351
2006 Big game 3096, Small game 1481
2. Persons with Disabilities purchased Deer Tags Modern firearm: 2001 (2507)
2004 Modern Firearms 2275
2005 Modern Firearms 2383
2006 Modern Firearms 2347

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3. Persons with Disabilities purchased Deer Tags Muzzle firearm: 2001 (127)
2004 Muzzleloader 190
2005 Muzzleloader 215
2006 Muzzleloader 217
4. Persons with Disabilities purchased Deer Tags Archery weapon: 2001 (112)
2004 Archery 229
2005 Archery 239
2006 Archery 217
5. Persons with Disabilities purchased Elk Tags Modern firearm: 2001 (1594)
2004 Modern Firearm 1416
2005 Modern Firearm 1645
2006 Modern Firearm 1600
6. Persons with Disabilities purchased Elk Tags Muzzle firearm: 2001 (219)
2004 Muzzleloader 214
2005 Muzzleloader 243
2006 Muzzleloader 245
7. Persons with Disabilities purchased Elk Tags Archery weapon: 2001 (91)
2004 Archery 206
2005 Archery 225
2006 Archery 279
8. Persons with Disabilities purchased Bear/Cougar Tags: 2001 (1829)
2004 → 1364
2005 → 1470
2006 → 1531

Currently, the Department has issued more than 5,000 Disabled Hunting Permits to hunters with a qualifying disability under WAC 232-12-828. In 2001, only 3724 hunters with disabled hunter permits purchased at least one license document; however, in 2006, 4577 hunters with disabilities purchased at least one type of hunting license.

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Commission's Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

2005-2007 Travel expenses paid

Travel Expenses

2005		Jan-05	Feb-05	Mar-05	Apr-05	May-05	Jun-05	Jul-05	Aug-05	Sep-05	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	
Reg. 4	Bill Vincent, Chair (Camano Island)	490.51	258.84	261.58	301.72	264.82		268.42			120.28	176.68	645.38	
Reg. 2	Thomas Baskin (E. Wenatchee)		330.11			463.16						224.99	519.69	
Reg. 5	Larry English (local)													
Reg. 6	Dan Eberle (Tacoma) term'd Jan. 2006													
Reg. 3	Bill Hoage (Kennewick)		495.92									322.29	236.23	
Reg. 1	Ric Villalobos (Spokane)													
At-Large	Andy Warber (Aberdeen) term'd Dec. 2005													
2005 TOTALS		490.51	1084.87	261.58	301.72	727.98		268.42			120.28	723.96	1401.30	5380.62
2006		Jan-06	Feb-06	Mar-06	Apr-06	May-06	Jun-06	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06	
Reg. 4	Bill Vincent, Chair (Camano Island)		259.77	575.06	576.97	479.41	216.14		402.62	381.06			309.04	
Reg. 6	B. Dezihan (Puyallup) appt'd Jan. 2006		225.01	30.26	285.53				30.26					
Reg. 2	Thomas Baskin (E. Wenatchee)		187.64	363.85		450.52	395.07		645.43			142.98		
Reg. 5	Greg Hicks (Centralia)								22.25					
Reg. 3	Bill Hoage (Kennewick)			486.72		552.06								
At-Large	Edward Langlois (Kirkland) appt'd Jan 2006			87.09		121.09			99.09					
Reg. 5	Larry English (local) term'd Feb 2006			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x	
Reg. 1	Ric Villalobos (Spokane)													
2006 TOTALS			672.42	1542.98	862.50	1603.08	611.21		1199.65	381.06		142.98	309.04	7324.92
2007		Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	
Reg. 4	Bill Vincent, Chair (Camano Island)	891.61		573.70	734.44	184.20	340.00	198.44	142.28		615.30			
Reg. 6	B. Dezihan (Puyallup) appt'd Jan. 2006			33.95										
Reg. 2	Malcolm Epstein (Ephrata) appt. 06/2007	x	x	x	x	x	486.44	486.44						
Reg. 2	Thomas Baskin (E. Wenatchee) res 6/2007			422.65		260.50	512.19	x	x	x	X	x	x	
Reg. 5	Greg Hicks (Centralia)			24.25										
Reg. 3	Bill Hoage (Kennewick)			165.48			580.36							
At-Large	Edward Langlois (Kirkland) appt'd Jan. 2006			67.90			94.90	67.90						
Reg. 1	Ric Villalobos (Spokane)													
2007 TOTALS		891.61		1287.93	734.44	444.70	2013.89	752.78	142.28		615.30			6,883.00*

*total thru Oct. 2007

**APPLICATION FOR
WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Mail to: Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Telephone: (360) 902-2267
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

APPLICANT INFORMATION

<hr/> LAST NAME	<hr/> FIRST NAME	<hr/> MI
<hr/> MAILING ADDRESS		
<hr/> CITY	<hr/> STATE	<hr/> ZIP CODE
<hr/> ()		
<hr/> TELEPHONE NO.		<hr/> E-MAIL ADDRESS
<hr/> WILD ID #	<hr/> DISABLED HUNTER PERMIT#	<hr/> HARVESTER CARD#

Please ask your doctor to complete the information below if you do not have a
Disabled Hunter Permit or Harvester Card.

Physician: Please check the following applicable boxes:

- ☐ Permanent Disability – Is not ambulatory over natural terrain without a lower extremity prosthesis **or** must permanently use a medically prescribed assistive device for mobility, including, but not limited to, a wheelchair, crutch, cane, walker or oxygen bottle.
- ☐ Permanent Disability – Physically incapable of holding and safely operating a firearm, legal fishing or shellfishing device.
- ☐ Permanent upper or lower extremity impairment who have lost the use of one or both upper or lower extremities, **or** who have a severe limitation in the use of one or both upper or lower extremities, **or** who have a diagnosed permanent disease or disorder which substantially impairs **or** severely interferes with mobility or the use of one or both upper or lower extremities for holding and safely operating a firearm or other legal hunting device or legal fishing or shellfishing device.
- ☐ Permanently blind or visually impaired.

"I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the above named individual is qualified as checked above and defined in 77.04.150 RCW, and that I am a physician licensed to practice in the state in which the applicant resides."

Physician's Name (Please Print) _____

Physician's Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # (include area code)

E-Mail Address

MEDICAL LICENSE NUMBER: _____
(Mandatory)

<p style="text-align: center;">WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES</p>
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RESPONSIBILITIES: • Advisory Committee members generally represent the interests of hunters and fishers with disabilities on matters including, but not limited to special hunts, modified sporting equipment, access to public land, and hunting and fishing opportunities.

COMPOSITION AND TERMS:

- Advisory Committee is comprised of seven members, each being a person with a disability. One resident from each of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's six administrative regions serve, plus one additional member appointed "at-large."
- Members represent the entire state.
- Members are appointed to four-year terms. (This is a pilot program that ends **July 1, 2008**.)
- Attendance is required Advisory Committee meetings, and take place at least semi-annually
- Members serve without compensation but receive reimbursement for travel expenses (lodging, meals, and transportation)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Member must be a person with a disability. For the purposes of this Committee, a person with a disability includes but is not limited to:
 - (a) A permanently disabled person who is not ambulatory over natural terrain without a prosthesis or assistive device;
 - (b) A permanently disabled person who is unable to walk without the use of assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, wheelchair, scooter, walker, or other assistive device;
 - (c) A person who has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are severe;
 - (d) A person who is restricted by lung disease to the extent that the person's functional limitations are severe;
 - (e) A person who is totally blind or visually impaired; or
 - (f) A permanently disabled person with upper or lower extremity impairments who does not have the use of one or both upper or lower extremities.

TO APPLY:

- Submit a biography and completed application for the Fish and Wildlife Commission's Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities to:

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

RCW 77.04.150

Disabled hunters and fishers -- Advisory committee -- Composition -- Terms -- Pilot project -- Report to the legislature.

(1) The commission must appoint an advisory committee to generally represent the interests of disabled hunters and fishers on matters including, but not limited to, special hunts, modified sporting equipment, access to public land, and hunting and fishing opportunities. The advisory committee is composed of seven members, each being a person with a disability. The advisory committee members must represent the entire state. The members must be appointed so that each of the six department administrative regions, as they existed on January 1, 2001, are represented with one resident on the advisory committee. One additional member must be appointed at large. The chair of the advisory committee must be a member of the advisory committee and shall be selected by the members of the advisory committee.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a person with a disability includes but is not limited to:

(a) A permanently disabled person who is not ambulatory over natural terrain without a prosthesis or assistive device;

(b) A permanently disabled person who is unable to walk without the use of assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, wheelchair, scooter, walker, or other assistive device;

(c) A person who has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are severe;

(d) A person who is restricted by lung disease to the extent that the person's functional limitations are severe;

(e) A person who is totally blind or visually impaired; or

(f) A permanently disabled person with upper or lower extremity impairments who does not have the use of one or both upper or lower extremities.

(3) The members of the advisory committee are appointed for a four-year term. If a vacancy occurs on the advisory committee prior to the expiration of a term, the commission must appoint a replacement within sixty days to complete the term.

(4) The advisory committee must meet at least semiannually, and may meet at other times as requested by a majority of the advisory committee members for any express purpose that directly relates to the duties set forth in subsection (1) of this section. A majority of members currently serving on the advisory committee constitutes a quorum. The department must provide staff support for all official advisory committee meetings.

(5) Each member of the advisory committee shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses as authorized in RCW [43.03.050](#) and [43.03.060](#).

(6) The members of the advisory committee, or individuals acting on their behalf, are immune from civil liability for official acts performed in the course of their duties.

(7) The provisions of this section constitute a pilot program that expires July 1, 2008. On December 1, 2007, the commission shall present a report to the appropriate legislative committees detailing the effectiveness of the advisory committee, including, but not limited to, the participation levels, general interest, quality of advice, and recommendations as to the advisory committee's continuance or modification.

[2005 c 149 § 1; 2001 c 312 § 1.]

C1-C2

Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities

Chairperson's Report to the Commission, October 2004

Committee members:

Region 1 - Richard Villalobos, Spokane -Wheelchair
Region 2 – Tom Baskin, East Wenatchee – Physical Disabilities
Region 3 – Bill Hoage, Kennewick – Vision Impaired
Region 4 – Albert (Bill) Vincent – Camano Island – Physical Disabilities
Region 5 – Andy Warber – Aberdeen – Wheelchair
Region 6 – Dan Eberle – Tacoma – Wheelchair

COMMITTEE PRIORITY TOPICS

Issues Discussed

WAC 232-12-828 – Hunting of Game Birds and Animals by persons with disability.

- Define a “hunter companion”
- Define “tagging requirements”
- Further define “person with a disability”
- Define “special use permit”
- Define “accompany”

Items of Interest Identified

- Shooting from a public highway – RCW 46.09.020.
- Providing moose permits for persons with disabilities.
- Use of two fishing poles and treble hooks.
- The use of crossbows by persons with disabilities.
- Shrimping /Fishing from boats by the designated harvester.
- Persons with disabilities using ATVs on closed roads within Wildlife Areas.
- The loss of Fishing access opportunity for persons with disabilities on Hood Canal.
- Number of big game tags issued to persons with disabilities.
- The definition of “negligent” in RCW 77.15.460.
- Oregon hunting regulations.
- Washington Accessible Outdoor Recreation Guide.
- Access to lakes, rivers and streams.
- Hunting stats comparing harvest rates for both hunters and hunters with disabilities for eastern and western Washington – Deer and Elk – Muzzleloader, Archery, and Modern Firearm

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife ADA Committee members and staff, proposed amendments to WAC 232-12-828 and supported its adoption by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

- ☐ Define a “hunter companion”
- ☐ Define “tagging requirements”
- ☐ Further define “person with a disability”
- ☐ Define “accompany”
- ☐ Defined “special use permit”
- ☐ Supported the adoption of additional deer, elk and moose permits for persons with disabilities.
- ☐ Described to Wildlife Program staff the needed criteria for persons with disabilities to access lands and harvest big game animals.
- ☐ Supported the adoption of a crossbow special use permits for persons with disabilities who are unable to use the adaptive archery equipment special use permit.

Individual Committee Member's contributions --

Time donated over its first three years to support the Fish and Wildlife Commission for Persons with Disabilities:

Richard Villalobos - 300 Hours

Tom Baskin – 2900 Hours - work performed on numerous projects on the east side

Bill Hoage – 600 Hours

Albert (Bill) Vincent - 2400 Hours - attended meetings for different interest groups; attended meetings as member of different committees

Andy Warber (New Member) – 40 Hours

Dan Eberle – 300 hours

Larry English – 600 Hours

TOTAL: 6,543 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Cost in per diem travel reimbursement charges to the Commission budget for this committee during its first three years: \$6,997.00

*Presented by Albert W. (Bill) Vincent, Committee Chair
October 1, 2004*